Gates Computers Now in Libraries

Department of Education

News Releases

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Nova Scotia public libraries are celebrating the completion of a project to install 114 new computers in 56 locations across the province, thanks to a grant provided earlier this year by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Officials marked the occasion in Truro on Wednesday by unveiling one of four regional computer training centres the province established through the grant. The gathering also celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Colchester-East Hants Regional Library.

Education Minister Jane Purves said having good quality computers available in public libraries across the province increases opportunities for all Nova Scotians, particularly those who aren't able to have equipment at home.

"Now it's much easier to walk into the library and find a good computer to use," said Ms. Purves. "Whether it's to find a job, to do research, or another reason, access has just become less of a concern."

As part of the $855,000 grant provided in January, libraries have also received technical assistance and other support, as well as $327,000 worth of software donated by Microsoft Corporation.

The project is intended to give people in low-income areas better access to computers and the Internet.

The grant allowed the provincial library to establish regional computer training centres in Yarmouth, Halifax, Sydney and Truro. They will provide computer training to community groups across the province.

"A key role of these centres is to give non-profit groups the tools to provide up-to-date computer training to the people they serve," said Ms. Purves.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, through the Gates Library Initiative, has partnered with public libraries throughout the United States and Canada to provide access to technology for all people.

FOR BROADCAST USE:

Public libraries in Nova Scotia are 114 computers richer

thanks to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The libraries are celebrating the completion of the computer installation in 56 centres across the province.

The project includes four regional computer centres to provide training to community groups around the province.

Education Minister Jane Purves officially opened the computer training centre at the Colchester - East Hants Regional Library in Truro today.

She says having good quality computers available in public libraries across the province increases opportunities for all Nova Scotians, particularly those who aren't able to have equipment at home.

The 855-thousand dollars grant includes technical assistance and other support, as well as 327-thousand dollars worth of software donated by Microsoft Corporation.

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